CLAIMS

1. A method for treating pain in a mammal, said method comprising administering to said mammal an analgesia-inducing amount of an endothelin-B receptor agonist.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal is a human.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said pain is acute pain.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said pain is caused by traumatic injury or surgery.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal is diagnosed as having psoriasis, scleroderma, or pruritis.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal has a thermal, chemical, or radiation burn of the cutaneous tissue.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said mammal has a sunburn.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal is diagnosed as having cancer.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said cancer is metastatic prostate or breast cancer.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal is diagnosed as having cardiovascular disease.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said cardiovascular disease is myocardial infarction, angina, ischemic cardiovascular disease, peripheral vascular occlusive disease, or peripheral arterial occlusive disease.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal is diagnosed as having sickle cell anemia, migraine headache, inflammatory conditions of the skin or joints, or diabetic neuropathy.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said endothelin-B receptor agonist is administered orally or by intravenous, intramuscular, or subcutaneous injection.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein said endothelin-B receptor agonist is administered topically.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said endothelin-B receptor agonist is IRL-1620.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises administering to said mammal a second analgesia-inducing compound.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said second analgesia-inducing compound is an endothelin-A receptor antagonist.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said endothelin-A receptor antagonist is sulfisoxazole.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said endothelin-A receptor antagonist is ABT-627.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein said second analgesia-inducing compound is an opioid receptor agonist.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said opioid receptor agonist is morphine, codeine, hydrocodone, or oxycodone.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein said second analgesia-inducing compound is a GIRK channel activator.

23. The method of claim 16, wherein said second analgesia-inducing compound is a protein kinase C activator.

24. The method of claim 16, wherein said endothelin-B receptor agonist and said second analgesia-inducing compound are administered within one hour of each other.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said endothelin-B receptor agonist and said second analgesia-inducing compound are administered simultaneously.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said endothelin-B receptor agonist and said second analgesia-inducing compound are administered in the same pharmaceutical formulation.